



Later that decade, according to a [biography](#) on his website, Mr. Blum worked with [Philip Agee](#), a former CIA agent and author of the 1975 book-length critique “[Inside the Company: CIA Diary](#),” on his efforts to expose what they regarded as the agency’s crimes.

Mr. Blum's books included "The CIA: A Forgotten History" (1986), "Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II" (1995), "West-Bloc Dissident: A Cold War Memoir" (2002), "Freeing the World to Death: Essays on the American Empire" (2005) and "America's Deadliest Export: Democracy — The Truth About U.S. Foreign Policy and Everything Else" (2013).

The message from bin Laden mentioning Mr. Blum's book appeared midway through the second term of President George W. Bush, who led the United States to war in Afghanistan and Iraq in the wake of the al-Qaeda terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, that killed nearly 3,000 people.

“If Bush decides to carry on with his lies and oppression,” bin Laden said, “then it would be useful for you to read the book ‘Rogue State,’ which states in its introduction: ‘If I were president, I would stop the attacks on the United States: First, I would give an apology to all the widows and orphans and those who were tortured. Then I would announce that American interference in the nations of the world has ended once and for all.’”

(Bin Laden erred in attributing that passage to “Rogue State”; it in fact came from “Freeing the World to Death.”)

Mr. Blum, for his part, condemned the 9/11 attacks and conceded that he had no desire to live under a regime that followed bin Laden's ideology. "The oppression of women," he [told Salon](#) in 2006. "The whole thing turns me off." But he conveyed no regret at receiving the compliment from bin Laden, who was later [killed by U.S. forces in Pakistan](#), and he welcomed the attention it brought to his books.

“The people who have interviewed me in the last few days, they keep pressing me to say how repulsed I am to get a plug from Osama bin Laden,” he said after the recording was made public. “I am not repulsed.”

William Henry Blum, a son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, was born in Brooklyn on March 6, 1933. His father was a machine operator at a paper factory, and his mother was a homemaker.

Mr. Blum received a bachelor's degree in accounting from the Baruch College of the City University of New York in 1955. After leaving the State Department, he helped start the Washington Free Press, a short-lived underground publication. Later in life, he tried his hand at screenwriting while residing in California.

“Unfortunately, his screenplays all had two (if not three) strikes against them because they dealt with those things which makes grown men run away screaming in Hollywood: ideas and issues,” read a [tribute](#) to him on the website of CovertAction magazine, where he was a regular contributor.

Mr. Blum was separated from his wife, Adelheid Zöfel. Besides their son, of Berlin, survivors include two grandsons.

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Among Mr. Blum's his final writings was an entry in September on his blog, [the Anti-Empire Report](#). His goal, he had told The Post when bin Laden brought him to renown, was "if not ending, at least slowing down the American Empire. At least injuring the beast."


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### Emily Langer

Emily Langer is a reporter on The Washington Post's obituaries desk. She writes about extraordinary lives in national and international affairs, science and the arts, sports, culture, and beyond. She previously worked for the Outlook and Local Living sections. Follow 

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